

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 8 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to write to the Security Council to dismiss with contempt and disdain Rwandan allegations of repeated violations of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) allied forces.

The SADC allied forces have religiously fulfilled their obligations as enshrined in their Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and other subsequent agreements. Our troops are not deployed anywhere near the theatre of operations mentioned by Rwanda.

The Government of Zimbabwe welcomes the request by Rwanda to the United Nations Security Council and to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to verify the alleged violations without delay. The reality on the ground will vindicate the SADC allied forces.

The pronouncements by the international community on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which, above and beyond, include recognition by the International Court of Justice that the presence of Rwandese Patriotic Army personnel on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo constitutes aggression, must not be allowed to be unravelled by these unfounded allegations.

The detractors to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are reminded that recently a European Parliament delegation urged the international community to be even-handed in trying to end the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. According to the parliamentarians it was unacceptable that 25 million Congolese resided under foreign occupation and that "one sometimes demands of Congo what one doesn't demand of Rwanda or Uganda. We want a balanced policy."

International donors have also added their voices and urged Kigali to withdraw its troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A cost benefit analysis by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank and the European Union has shown that Rwanda's support of Congolese rebels is a hindrance to the much needed flow of aid to Rwanda itself.

As if this was not enough, internecine strife within the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD), Goma, has left that organization too divided and feeble to be of any military consequence. As a result, Emile Ilunga has been



removed from leadership and replaced by Adolphe Onusumba. Politically, Onusumba does not have any legitimacy, hence he has to prove himself in military terms. It is against this backdrop that Rwanda's assertion that it reserves the right to defend itself and its allies should be understood.

The Government of Zimbabwe urges the Security Council to see through Rwanda's subterfuge. The so-called right to self-defence is nothing more than an excuse by Rwanda to launch an offensive.

The Government of Zimbabwe and the SADC allied forces remain committed to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, but will not hesitate to defend their positions if attacked.

My Government requests that the present letter be circulated to all members as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) T. J. B. **Jokonya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
